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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

MAP OF THE STATE
AND COUNTY RECORDS
MAY 6 1954



NO. 157

RALEIGH.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

APRIL 20, 1954

FARMING PROGRESSING FAVORABLY

Soil moisture over the State on April 1 was generally ample to excessive. Although frequent rains have interfered with land preparation, they have been beneficial in that adequate moisture reserves have been built up as we go into the spring season. Periods of cool weather occurred throughout the past month but no serious damage has resulted from frosts and freezes. Warm open weather is now needed to permit preparation of seed beds and transplanting of tobacco.

Tobacco seed beds are in fair to good condition and the supply of plants is expected to be adequate to meet demands. Setting of plants has started in the border belt and should become quite active by the middle of April.

Corn planting was underway in many areas of the State by April 1 and was making rapid progress in several eastern counties.

Only a very small amount of cotton had been planted by the first of April and most of this was in localities in the southeastern part of the State.

Winter grains and pasture grasses are responding favorably to improved moisture conditions, but it must be remembered that these crops went into the winter in poor condition. Stands of wheat and oats are, in many cases, thin, and plants made only limited growth during the late fall and winter. Pasture lands, particularly in the Piedmont area, were badly overgrazed during the past fall and are not fully recovered from the adverse affects of last year's drought.

A fairly good crop of peaches appears to be in prospect. Some light damage to peaches possibly resulted from freezing temperatures early in March but no serious losses are evident.

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

Beginning this year, NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, which heretofore has been published on an annual basis only, will be published quarterly. This change in scheduling of publications is designed with the idea of providing detailed agricultural statistics for North Carolina on a more nearly current basis than has been possible through the annual publication.

The first quarterly issue for 1954 will be available for distribution on or before April 23. It will contain the most recent State and National data for 1952 and 1953 crop and livestock production. Of particular interest to North Carolina readers are new series of county inventory estimates of milk cows and swine on North Carolina farms. Numbers of milk cows, by counties, cover the period 1943 to 1953, inclusive. Swine population estimates are shown for the years 1938 to 1953. The publication will also contain the 1951 and 1952 county estimates of acreage, yield, production, price and value of eleven principal crops produced within the State.

Your North Carolina Crop Reporting Service is glad to make this publication available free-of-charge to all interested parties but, for the sake of economy, it is necessary that general distribution be limited to those who request it. It may be obtained simply by writing to: Agricultural Statistician, P. O. Box 2779, Raleigh, N. C.

N. C. FARM WAGE RATES

Wage rates paid by North Carolina farmers on April 1, 1954 were generally unchanged from a year earlier, with per

(Continued on page 7)

N. C. 1953 GROSS FARM INCOME FROM CHICKENS AND EGGS SETS RECORD

AVERAGE PRICE FOR CHICKENS LOWER

The 1953 gross farm income from eggs and chickens (including commercial broilers) for North Carolina totaled \$108,000,000 -- 9 percent more than in 1952. Of the 1953 total gross income, 53 percent was from eggs, 36 percent from commercial broilers and 11 percent from farm chickens, compared with 52 percent from eggs, 34 percent from commercial broilers, and 14 percent from farm chickens in 1952. Cash receipts from sales of chickens and eggs in 1953 accounted for \$89,000,000, or 82 percent of the gross income. The remainder represented the value of products consumed on farms where produced. Production of chickens (including commercial broilers) on North Carolina farms in 1953 amounted to 65,000,000 birds, 10 percent above the 59,000,000 produced in 1952. A record 51,000,000 commercial broilers were produced, 19 percent more than the 43,000,000 produced in 1952. Income from commercial broilers reached a record high of \$39,000,000 -- 15 percent more than in 1952.

N. C. COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME

YEAR	PRODUCED		PRICE PER LB.	GROSS IN- COME 1/
	NUMBER	POUNDS		
<u>THOUSANDS</u>				
1949	23,040	64,512	26.9	17,354
1950	28,109	78,705	26.3	20,699
1951	32,606	91,297	27.9	25,472
1952	43,366	121,425	28.4	34,485
1953	50,738	147,140	26.3	38,698

1/ Includes consumption in households of producers.

N. C. FARM PRODUCTION, SALES AND CASH RECEIPTS FROM EGGS

YEAR	EGGS PRODUCED	EGGS SOLD	PRICE PER DOZ.	CASH RECEIPTS		
					MILLION 1/	CENTS
1949	1,226	908	48.6	36,774		
1950	1,266	944	40.0	31,467		
1951	1,229	927	53.0	40,943		
1952	1,296	995	47.0	38,971		
1953	1,337	1,036	51.8	44,721		

1/ Rounded to nearest whole million.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, CASH RECEIPTS AND GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS

ITEMS	UNIT	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
RAISED 1/.....	THOUSAND HEAD	20,406	17,549	18,251	18,981	16,513
LOST 2/.....	THOUSAND HEAD	2,190	2,355	2,603	2,677	2,717
PRODUCED 3/.....	THOUSAND HEAD	18,216	15,194	15,648	16,304	13,796
CHANGE IN INVENTORY 4/....	THOUSAND HEAD	+ 227	+ 1	+ 354	- 400	+ 56
CONSUMED IN FARM HOUSEHOLD.....	THOUSAND HEAD	9,270	8,992	8,992	8,812	8,283
SOLD.....	THOUSAND HEAD	8,719	6,201	6,302	7,892	5,457
PRODUCED.....	THOUSAND POUNDS	68,164	57,582	57,629	58,915	53,245
CONSUMED IN FARM HOUSEHOLD.....	THOUSAND POUNDS	30,591	29,674	29,674	28,198	27,334
SOLD.....	THOUSAND POUNDS	36,620	27,904	26,468	32,357	25,648
PRICE PER POUND..	CENTS	27.3	22.4	25.9	23.1	22.9
CASH RECEIPTS....	THOUSAND DOLLARS	9,997	6,250	6,855	7,474	5,873
VALUE OF CHICKENS CONSUMED.....	THOUSAND DOLLARS	8,351	6,647	7,686	6,514	6,259
GROSS INCOME.....	THOUSAND DOLLARS	18,348	12,897	14,541	13,988	12,132

1/ Does not include young chickens lost or commercial broilers.

2/ Loss during the year of chickens on hand January 1.

3/ Chickens sold, plus consumed in household of farm producers and + change in inventory.

4/ Change in inventory numbers during the year.

Broiler producers have not reduced output materially despite the slump in prices in recent months. Chick placements in several areas continued near record levels into March, indicating broiler slaughter will continue high in April and May.

POULTRY CONSUMPTION HAS INCREASED

Consumption of poultry meat has increased steadily in recent years as production of commercial broilers and turkeys has expanded. In 1953 about 29 pounds of chicken and 5.3 pounds of turkey were being consumed per person, which together equal about half the 62 pounds of pork or the 73 pounds or more of beef. Though the 1953 consumption of red meats will be short of 3 previous years, near-record consumption of poultry will boost the total of red meat and poultry to a new high.

In 1954 consumption of red meats is not likely to increase and may be smaller than in 1953, while consumption of poultry meat may not make much change.

BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS

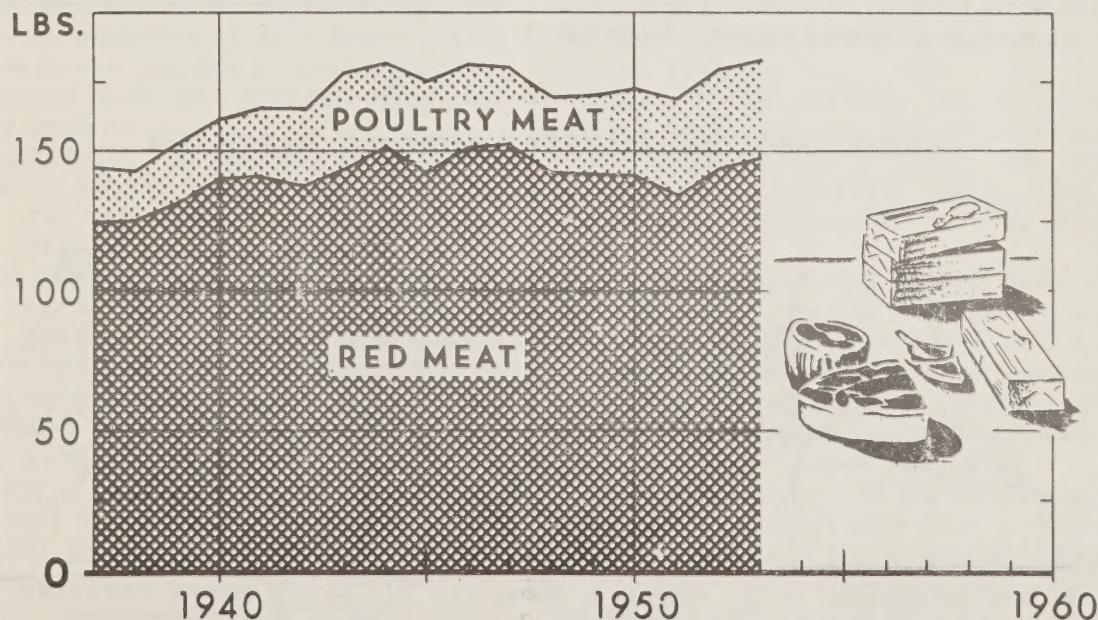
CONTINUE TO RISE

During March of this year, hatcheries and dealers serving the Central and Western commercial broiler areas of N. C. placed 5,474,000 baby chicks with broiler producers, the highest of record for the month. This compares with 4,424,000 placed during the month of February -- an increase of 24 percent, and is 14 percent above total placements for March a year ago.

Hatcheries serving the commercial broiler areas of the State set 9,337,000 eggs during March, or 32 percent more than the 7,049,000 set during February. This compares with 8,086,000 eggs set during March of 1953.

North Carolina broiler producers received an average price of 23-24 cents per pound for broilers marketed at Central Markets during March. This was about 3 to 4 cents below the average price received during March of last year.

POULTRY MEAT AND RED MEAT CONSUMPTION PER PERSON



MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

The weather was relatively cool and wet in North Carolina during the month of March, 1954. Temperatures ranged from near normal along the outer banks to a little more than a degree below seasonal in most sections; precipitation averaged near or above normal at most locations. It was just about as windy as a March is supposed to be. There were many windy days but in general the highest winds appropriately enough occurred on the first day of the month; gusts up to 40-45 mph were reported in many localities. High winds were especially damaging at scattered spots in the eastern counties, uprooting trees, blowing down farm outbuildings and telephone and power lines.

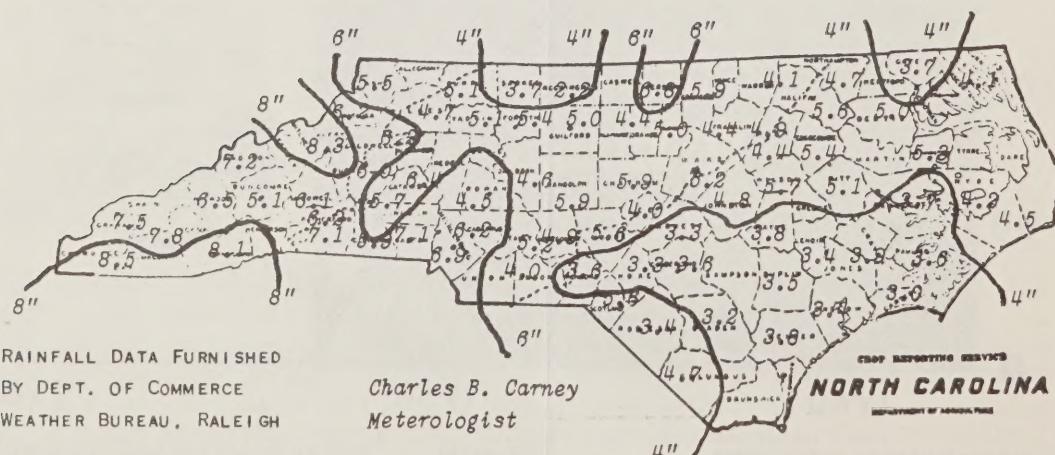
Snow fell on some mountain locations on the 3d; this snow was not as heavy or as extensive as the snow of February 28th - March 1st, most of which fell in time to be counted in the February weather records. Over the State measurable rain fell about 12 days during the month. Precipitation totals for the month were from 1 to 3 inches above normal at many places, chiefly in the western two-thirds of the State, while totals were just about seasonal in the greater part of the coastal plain. There were several moderate to heavy rains during the month. One of the雨iest periods was on the 13th and 14th when some locations had from 2 to 3 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. Most lo-

calities had about 4 days with reported thunderstorms, almost twice the long-time average for the month.

There were quite a few mild or warm days in March, but for every such day with temperatures above seasonal there were from 1 to 2 days with readings on the cool or cold side. As a result, daily highest and lowest temperatures averaged a little over 1 degree cooler than those of an average March. The lowest temperatures were recorded on the 4th through the 7th, 15th-17th and on the 22d, when early morning temperatures were generally in the 20's and low 30's. The warmest day was the 30th when afternoon readings were in the 80's.

Firm demand is the outlook for tobacco in the year ahead. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco are expected to be favorable this year compared with most prewar years, though down a little from 1953. About as much as last year is expected to be used domestically...for cigarettes, cigars, smoking tobacco, and snuff.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, MARCH 1954



APRIL 1 TRUCK CROP REPORT

N. C. POTATO ACREAGE

BELOW LAST YEAR

CABBAGE - EAST: North Carolina cabbage growers indicate they planted 2,200 acres for late spring harvest -- the same as last year's acreage. Reports indicate that the condition of the crop is good and most fields have good stands. In general the crop is 10 days to two weeks late due to cold weather, with early cuttings expected about May 1, reaching volume in mid-May.

For the Nation, the late spring cabbage acreage is still estimated at 10,750 acres, 4 percent above last year but 4 percent below average.

The April 1 forecast of 124,500 tons of early spring cabbage in the U. S. is 14 percent below the crop produced last year but is about equal to average production.

STRAWBERRIES: Warm weather during the last of March resulted in considerable improvement in the condition of strawberries in North Carolina. The cold weather this winter has held the plants in check and prevented excessive blooming. Hence, good quality is expected. The crop should start to move about April 15 and reach peak season during the first week of May. Based on current conditions, an average yield of 95 crates is estimated for this year compared to 90 crates last year. Such a yield would set production at 152,000 crates, slightly less than the 153,000-crgebn production in the 1953 season.

U. S. production of early spring strawberries is now forecast at 1,047,000 crates, 26 percent larger than 1953 and 49 percent above average.

LETTUCE: As of April 1, the North Carolina lettuce crop looked good, but there was wide range in growth progress. Some early fields will be ready for harvest around April 20. The current forecast sets this year's production at 200,000 crates. Last year 180,000 crates were harvested.

For the U. S., an early spring crop of 7,203,000 crates is now forecast for 1954 which is 5 percent less than last year but about equal to average.

BEETS: North Carolina's beet crop, estimated at 300 acres, generally is in only fair condition. As the result of cold weather and frost, a large proportion of the acreage has been planted three times and prospects are still only fair. Harvest is expected to begin about May 1.

Planting of North Carolina's commercial potato crop has been completed, but few plants had surfaced by April 1 due to retarding cold weather. With favorable weather harvest should begin the last of May, reaching volume about June 5. Late spring acreage for the State is now estimated at 15,000 acres, 23 percent below last year's 19,500 acres.

Total U. S. acreage for late spring harvest is estimated at 116,700 acres -- 29 percent below last year's acreage of 165,400 acres and 29 percent less than the 10-year average. The California late spring acreage -- at 56,000 acres -- is 33 percent smaller than in 1953.

Total early commercial potato acreage in 1954, including prospective summer-crop acreage (based on intentions reported earlier) is indicated to be 207,000 acres -- 25 percent less than the 277,000 acres harvested last season.

RECORD EGG PRODUCTION IN MARCH

Farm production of eggs in North Carolina during March of 1954, amounted to 156 million eggs, the highest of record for the month. This amount compares with 145 million produced during March 1953 and reflects a normal seasonal increase of 26 percent above the 124 million eggs produced during February of 1954. The rate of egg production in March was 18.2 eggs per layer as compared to 17.1 in March 1953.

The average number of layers on N. C. farms during March was estimated at 8,606,000. This number compares with 8,463,000 during March of 1953, and reflects a normal seasonal trend of 2 percent below the 8,773,000 estimated for February of 1954.

U. S. farm flocks laid 6.6 billion eggs in March - 5 percent more than in March last year and 3 percent more than the 1943-52 average. Egg production was above that of last year in all parts of the country and reached record high levels in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Western States

LARGE VOLUME OF 1953 FEED GRAINS PLACED UNDER PRICE SUPPORT

The quantity of feed grains placed under loan and purchase agreement from the 1953 crops probably will total considerably larger than the 12.5 million tons of 1952-53, and may approach the record of 18 million tons in 1948-49. Through February 15, 11.4 million tons of feed grains had been placed under price support compared with 7.1 million in 1952-53.

Loans and purchase agreements were available on 1953 oats, barley, and sorghum grains through January 31. A record quantity of oats, about 60 million bushels, was placed under price support, while the 43 million bushels of barley was second only to the record of 49 million bushels in 1948-49. While the quantity of 1953 sorghum grain placed under price support was much larger than in the two preceding years, it fell considerably below the large quantities from the 1949 and 1950 crops, when production was much larger than in 1953. The 46 million bushels of sorghum grain placed under price support was equivalent to 42 percent of the 1953 crop.

Farmers have until May 31 to place their 1953 corn under price support. Through February 15 farmers had placed 292 million bushels of corn under loan and purchase agreement, a record quantity for the period. In 1948-49, when a record of 551 million bushels was placed under price support, only 211 million had been placed in the program through February. In addition to the 292 million bushels of 1953 corn placed under price support, about 525 million bushels of old corn were owned by CCC, under loan, or in process of delivery to CCC. This would mean that a total of over 800 million bushels of corn was under loan, purchase agreement, or owned by CCC about the middle February.

The quantity of corn in the price support program will increase further during March, April, and May, as farmers are expected to place more corn under price support than CCC sells from its stocks. As the marketing season progresses and total corn stocks are reduced, an increasing percentage of the corn on hand will be held under the price support program. This is expected to result in a tight supply of "free" corn toward the close of the marketing season.

MARCH MILK PRODUCTION HIGHEST OF RECORD IN N. C. AND NATION

Milk production on North Carolina farms during March of 1954 amounted to 144 million pounds. This amount sets another record for the month of March. Production during March of 1953 was placed at 130 million pounds and at 122 million during March of 1952. Average monthly production per cow in North Carolina herds was estimated at 368 pounds or 8 percent above the average production rate of 342 pounds during March 1953.

Reflecting a normal seasonal increase -- and based upon a longer month -- the March rate of flow is 15 percent above the average production of 321 pounds during February of 1954.

The average number of cows on N. C. farms during March was placed at 392,000. This compares with 379,000 on farms during the same month a year ago, and is the highest number recorded since 1929.

Crop reporters fed an average of 6.2 pounds of grain, mill feeds and concentrates per cow as of April 1. This was the highest feeding rate ever reported and compares with 5.5 pounds for April 1, 1953. April 1 condition of pastures was reported at 81 percent of normal compared with 88 percent a year earlier.

Total March output for the Nation, estimated at 10.7 billion pounds, was 5 percent above last year's previous all-time high for the month, and 12 percent above the 1943-52 average.

SMALLER WHEAT CROP

Reports from North Carolina wheat producers on April 1 indicate a 1954 crop of 5,652,000 bushels, 31 percent below the 8,200,000 bushel crop harvested in 1953 and 18 percent short of the 10-year average production of 6,915,000 bushels.

The principal factor responsible for this sharp reduction, is the much smaller acreage allowed under the allotment program for the 1954 crop. Yield prospects also are less promising than those realized last year because of the very unfavorable planting season last Fall.

The 1954 Winter Wheat crop for the Nation is forecast at 678 million bushels -- 23 percent smaller than the 1953 crop of 877½ million bushels and 19 percent below average.

FARM WAGES (Continued)

day wages with house down slightly (see table below).

The average rate per day with house at \$4.15 was 10 cents below the April 1, 1953 average. The rate per day without board or room at \$5.00 was unchanged from the previous year.

The average hourly rates with house and without house at 50 and 60 cents respectively, were also unchanged from a year earlier.

FARM WAGE RATES, N. C. AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	APRIL 1 1953	APRIL 1 1954
NORTH CAROLINA		
PER DAY:		DOLLARS
WITH HOUSE.....	4.25	4.15
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM	5.00	5.00
PER HOUR:		
WITH HOUSE.....	.50	.50
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM	.60	.60
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
PER DAY:		
WITH HOUSE.....	4.20	4.15
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM	4.80	4.85
PER HOUR:		
WITH HOUSE.....	.55	.56
WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM	.64	.65

Cotton prices have risen above loan levels and some cotton has been redeemed from loan. CCC stocks (owned in producers' pools and pledged as collateral against loans) declined from the peak of 8.4 million bales on February 12 to 8.3 million on March 12.

CONDITION OF RYE BELOW AVERAGE

Rye producers report an April 1 average condition of 86 percent for the North Carolina crop. This is 6 points below April 1 condition last year and 1 point below the 10-year average condition on this date. The dry Fall of 1953 caused the crop to get off to a slower start than usual and the crop did not make normal winter growth.

N. C. FARM STOCKS CORN LOW Small Grains High

April 1 stocks of corn on farms in North Carolina at 19,780,000 bushels were slightly above those a year ago but considerably less than the 10-year average. Short corn crops during the 1952 and 1953 seasons account primarily for the low stocks at present and on the first of April in 1953. Current total small grain stocks on farms are far above those of April 1, 1953 and the 10-year average for the date, reflecting the relatively heavy production realized last year. Farm stocks of soybeans in the State on April 1 were lower than a year ago and, also below average.

For the Nation, farm stocks of feed grains (corn, oats, and barley) on April 1 were 2 percent larger than a year earlier, and about 11 percent above average. About 298 million bushels of wheat remained on farms April 1, a tenth more than a year earlier and a third more than average. Rye stocks of 5.4 million bushels are larger than in any of the last 8 years and more than double the small farm stocks a year ago. Farm stocks of 36.6 million bushels of soybeans are smallest for April 1 since 1948, reflecting the small 1953 crop and recent good prices.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS APRIL 1

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	AVERAGE 1943-52	1953	1954	AVERAGE 1943-52	1953	1954
--THOUSAND BUSHELS--						
CORN	26,929	18,341	19,780	1,253,288	1,452,627	1,468,770
WHEAT	1,080	1,028	1,312	222,128	269,523	297,873
OATS	1,759	1,775	3,380	492,594	454,075	450,335
BARLEY	175	252	297	81,049	57,126	74,883
RYE	30	10	17	4,322	2,454	5,386
SOYBEANS	888	663	572	41,803	59,669	36,640

FARM REPORT

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PEACH PROSPECTS BELOW AVERAGE

As of April 1, 1954 no serious or widespread frost damage had occurred to the State's peach crop. Orchardists reported a condition of 73 percent of normal statewide, while condition in the commercial sandhills area was reported at 76 percent of normal. The 1954 set of fruit is somewhat lighter than for the past two years but is generally adequate for a satisfactory crop.

For the 10 southern states evaluated at this time, the April 1 condition was reported at 61 percent of a full crop, 19 points below the April 1, 1953 condition and 8 points below the April 1 average. Frost damage has occurred in some important producing areas of the 10 states. March freezes damaged the crop in Florida, coastal regions of Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. Some of these states have the poorest

prospects in years. Average crops are expected in Alabama, Georgia and the two Carolinas.

PEACHES CONDITION

On April 1

STATE	AVERAGE 1943-52	1951	1952	1953	1954
<u>PERCENT</u>					
N. C.	77	80	87	87	73
S. C.	72	86	82	75	71
GA.	70	75	74	85	79
FLA.	65	54	69	85	50
ALA.	63	38	78	82	72
MISS.	65	35	72	79	40
ARK.	65	29	61	87	41
LA.	68	43	68	79	42
OKLA.	56	48	43	79	25
TEXAS	61	52	39	65	18
ALL	69	65	72	80	61